

REMARKS

In the above-referenced Office Action, the Examiner divided the claims into the following groups:

- I. Claims 24-29, drawn to a method for forming a planarizing pad/medium;
- II. Claims 30-34, drawn to a method for removing material from a microelectronic substrate;
- III. Claims 35-42, drawn to a planarizing pad; and
- IV. Claims 43-54, drawn to an apparatus for forming a planarizing pad.

In response, the applicant elects Group I, claims 24-29, without traverse. Non-elected claims 30-34 have been withdrawn without prejudice, and non-elected claims 35-54 have been canceled without prejudice to pursuing these claims in a continuation, divisional, continuation-in-part, or other application. The foregoing election is made with the understanding that the Examiner and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office are now bound to the finding of non-obviousness between each of the species.

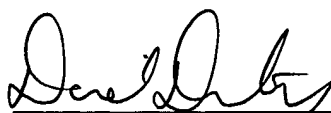
The undersigned attorney notes that claim 24 is generic to Groups I and II. Upon allowance of the generic claim, applicant requests consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or which otherwise include all the limitations of the allowed generic claims.

No fees are believed due with this communication. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and requested to charge any deficiency in fees herein to Deposit Account No. 50-0665.

Respectfully submitted,

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